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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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UNITED STATES EXPENDS \$13,975,000 IN FISCAL 1956  
ON FISHERY RESEARCH AND ALLIED SERVICES

America expended \$13,975,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, on research and services for its commercial fisheries, according to a report released today by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton.

Categories considered in the report include expenditures for biological research, hatchery and river basin studies, exploratory fishing and gear research, technological studies (refrigeration, utilization of products, etc.), collection and publication of statistics and market news data, economic studies, market development and education activities, and various other types of research and services.

Of this total expenditure, \$9,292,000 was from the regular Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation, \$2,811,000 of which was from funds made available by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act; \$4,015,000 was supplied by States and \$668,000 by International Commissions.

The report shows that \$4,733,000 was spent in salmon research and services; tuna activities got \$1,504,000 of which \$1,386,000 was spent on the Pacific fishery; oysters got \$1,068,000 of which \$984,000 was spent on Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico problems; for sardines \$1,184,000 was spent with \$957,000 going to the Pacific; while \$613,000 was spent on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery. The menhaden and halibut fisheries each got \$245,000. Research and services for all varieties of fresh-water fish amounted to \$917,000. The remainder of the funds were distributed among numerous other fish including rockfish, flounders, ocean perch, mackerel, mullet, striped bass, scallops, clams, crabs and northern lobsters.

More than half of the \$4,015,000 supplied by States went to three varieties of fish, salmon research and development work getting \$983,000, eastern and southern oysters projects receiving \$706,000 and \$638,000 for work on the Pacific sardine.

The International Commissions funds were distributed in the interests of three fisheries: salmon, \$282,000; tuna, \$198,000; halibut, \$188,000.

The annual catch of fish varies from year to year but approximates four and a half billion pounds. The value of the catch also varies but it approximates \$350,000,000 a year.

The report puts shrimp in the first position in value of catch at the boat, third at the level of the processor and primary wholesaler and second at the retailer level. Tuna ranks first for the processor and primary wholesaler, first for the retailer and second for the fisherman. Salmon is second for the processor and primary wholesaler, third for the retailer and third for the fisherman.

As far as volume is concerned menhaden is far ahead with a catch of about 1,700,000,000 pounds annually, or about 38 percent of the total catch. Menhaden, which is used for meal and oil, ranks in the sixth, seventh and ninth positions in value respectively to the processor, fisherman and retailer.

Alaska is first among the States and territories in number of fishermen with 14,000 out of a total of 153,000. California heads the list of fishing craft in operation with more than 10,000 out of a total of about 87,000 craft. California, Massachusetts and New Jersey are rated one, two, three in volume of catch; California, Massachusetts and Florida are one, two, three in the value of the catch.

The report, Major Commercial Fisheries with data on Research Expenditures, Fishery Leaflet 435, may be obtained from the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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